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In the Claims

46. (Cancelled) Please cancel claim 46 without prejudice.

47. (Cancelled) Please cancel claim 47 without prejudice.

48. (Currently Amended) The distributed voice user interface system of Claim 46- A remote network for a distributed voice user interface comprising:

a transceiver for communicating with a local device, the transceiver operable to receive speech input issued by a user at the local device, the local device operable to perform a first level of speech recognition on the speech input;
a processing facility coupled to the transceiver and having a plurality of physically distributed processing units, the processing facility operable to perform a second level of speech recognition on the speech input;
wherein the processing facility is operable to receive the buffered speech input from the local device and to recognize words in the speech input;
wherein the local device comprises a first speech generating engine operable to generate speech output; and
wherein the remote network comprises a second speech generation engine operable to generate speech output.

49. (Previously Added) The distributed voice under interface system of Claim 48 wherein the speech output generated by the second speech generation engine is consistent with speech output generated by the first speech generation engine.